

LACDMH RECEIVES 2012 VOICE AWARDS HONORABLE MENTION
By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, LACDMH Public Information Officer II



On Wednesday, August 22, 2012, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (LACDMH) series, *Profiles of Hope*, received a 2012 Voice Awards Honorable Mention at the seventh annual ceremony held at Paramount Studios in Hollywood. David Shore hosted this year's awards show. Shore is the writer, producer and creator of Fox Network's *House M.D.*

As an Honorable Mention recipient, *Profiles of Hope* was listed in the Voice Awards' event program. The *Profiles of Hope* series was among a number of productions that were recognized for its dignified, respectful and accurate portrayals of people with behavioral health problems.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) hosts the annual Voice Awards to honor consumer/peer leaders in recovery from mental health and/or substance abuse disorders. Awards are also given to recognize television and film professionals for their efforts to educate the public about lived experiences of individuals with behavioral health problems.

This year, the federal program's award winners included athletes. SAMHSA spotlighted the strength and perseverance of athletes who face mental health and/or substance use disorders. Among the athletes honored this year for their advocacy and leadership were Metta World Peace from the Los Angeles Lakers, former Boston Celtics basketball player Chris Herren, former WNBA Washington Mystics player Chamique Holdsclaw and Chicago Bears football player Brandon Marshall.



LACDMH Director, Dr. Marvin Southard, D.S.W., presented Metta World Peace with a special recognition from SAMHSA for his work to raise awareness about mental health issues, and for his ongoing support of nonprofit organizations that provide mental health awareness and treatment services for children.

“As a basketball player, he’s (Metta World Peace) known for his defense. As a person, he’s known for his heart,” said Dr. Southard about Metta World Peace before presenting the award to the Lakers forward.

At the podium, Metta World Peace thanked the Lakers management for bringing him to Los Angeles so he could pursue all his projects, including those involving mental health. “I want to thank the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health for partnering with me and bringing awareness to mental health. And, I want to thank SAMHSA and Dr. Southard.”



SAMHSA also recognized television screenwriter and producer Shonda Rhimes with a Career Achievement Award for her efforts to educate audiences about the experiences of people with behavioral health problems. Rhimes has worked on ABC's *Grey's Anatomy* and *Private Practice*.

Consumer/peer leadership awards were presented to Henry Acosta, Shery Mead and Brittany Holt who shared their stories of recovery and promote social inclusion of people with mental and/or substance use disorders in their communities.

William White was honored with the SAMHSA Lifetime Achievement Award for his advocacy, leadership and research to promote recovery from addictions. White has authored/co-authored books, articles and reports on addictions for the past 40 years.



Below are the winners of this year's SAMHSA Voice Awards for each category:

- Television: *Castle* (ABC), *Glee* (Fox), *Homeland* (Showtime), *Law & Order: SVU* (NBC), *Necessary Roughness* (USA), *Parenthood* (NBC)
- Film: *Take Shelter*
- Documentary: *Bob and the Monster*, *Demi Lovato: Stay Strong, Unguarded* (ESPN)